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The Girl From Berlin: Gruppenführer's Mistress



Synopsis

"Gruppenführer's Mistress" is book two in the series "The Girl from Berlin," which continues to follow Annalise's story. Caught up in a dangerous game between the Allies and Nazi Germany Secret Service and the RSHA, she's torn between staying faithful to her husband and yielding to the demands of her American superiors and starting a romance with the unpredictable Chief of the RSHA Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who she finds herself attracted to more and more every day. | Reviewed By Jack Magnus for Readers' Favorite

The Girl from Berlin: Gruppenführer's Mistress is the second book in Ellie Midwood's historical fiction series, The Girl from Berlin. Annalise realizes that she is playing a very dangerous game when she asks for Gruppenführer Dr. Kaltenbrunner's assistance in exacting revenge on her boss, Reinhard Heydrich, but she's mad with grief over his complicity in the suicide death of her brother Norbert and the resulting miscarriage of her and her husband's first child. While the leader of the Austrian SS has an evil reputation as a monster and a sadist, Dr. Kaltenbrunner has always been oddly gentle and attentive with her. And while he's initially taken aback at the audacity of her request, he agrees to start the process that will result in Heydrich's death.

Ellie Midwood's World War II historical fiction novel, The Girl from Berlin: Gruppenführer's Mistress, is an outstanding and enthralling tale recreating the lives of Annalise and her husband as they work for the American Secret Service in the guise of loyal Germans working in the Reich Main Security Office. The depth of the author's research and her expertise on the subject of Nazi Germany is evidenced on every page of this thrilling and suspenseful tale. I would urge new readers to begin with the first book in the series, Standartenführer's Wife, to get the full impact of this most impressive series.

Gruppenführer's Mistress is impeccably researched and beautifully written, making the workaday world and intrigue surrounding Annalise and Heinrich's lives feel real, and the psychological thriller aspect of Annalise and Ernst Kaltenbrunner's growing attraction to each other is masterfully played out. While the title does let prospective readers know that there is definitely romance, some of which is steamy, in this novel, The Girl from Berlin: Gruppenführer's Mistress is historical literary fiction at its finest. It's most highly recommended.

Other books in the series: Book one: "The Girl from Berlin: Standartenführer's Wife" Book three: "The Girl from Berlin: War Criminal's Widow"

Book Information

File Size: 1777 KB

Print Length: 214 pages

Publication Date: October 9, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B016FTEU14

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #28,961 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #61 inÂ Books > Romance > Historical > 20th Century #344 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Espionage #456 inÂ Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Espionage

Customer Reviews

War, spies, espionage, international intrigue, and romanceâ”ˆâ”ˆThe Girl from Berlin:

GruppenfÃ hrer's Mistressâ”™' provides everything an avid suspense reader could want. As far as thrillers go, it's up there at the top of my list. I'm a sucker for WWII stories. I don't know what it is, but that era fascinates me. This is the second Ellie Midwood book I've read staged during this time period and I felt myself drawn in from the first paragraph. It takes up exactly where the first one left off, following Annalise's story as she carefully negotiates her way through love and war. As an author, Ellie Midwood has that magical ability to create the kind of suspense that causes the reader to turn pages rapidly. Each chapter left me cliffhanging, and as the plot rose to a crescendo, it finally took me, completely off guard, to an unexpected ending.

The tension was even more intense than the first book! It's a miracle I have any fingernails left! Ms. Midwood really knows how to weave a story of spies and espionage, and I was caught up from the very first chapter until the final page. I read the book almost nonstop because I simply could not put this book down. While in the first book Annalise starts out sweet and innocent, she is anything but in book two. She juggles her happy marriage and her double life as a spy at the same time she seeks revenge and will stop at nothing short of murder. She makes a deal with the devil, and all the reader can do is watch in suspense and hold their breath as dangerous events unfold. I fell in love with Heinrich in book one, and I love him still in book 2. I felt so sorry for him over the poker game. I won't give away spoilers, but what was the poor man supposed to do? What a terrible position to be

in. I don't blame him for making the gamble. The danger in Annalise's life grew to a new degree each chapter. The interrogation over the radio was so terrifying for me! I could barely stand the tension and I had to take a break from reading at that point. But it turned out to be a short one and, just like an addict, I was soon reading again. I had to see where the plot would go next. Another huge hit! Five big fat stars!

Picking up from the first book in this series, two of the main characters, Annalise and her husband Heindrich, deepen their anti-government work and by doing so, learn valuable lessons: how making the choice to kill to protect one's own family can take its toll, and following the edict, "For the better good" can have some unexpected consequences. But to me, this book is ultimately a portrayal of a woman's attraction to her boss, someone she herself readily calls "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Why is she so forgiving of and drawn to such a sweet-one-moment/vicious-the-next man? That leads us to the age-old question: why do certain women get involved with men they shouldn't? Ms. Midwood presents this quandary extremely well. Her slow buildup of Annalise's feelings—her excuses, her anger/indignation, her softening, her guilt, her physical stimulation is so well done, once again, the pages were turning—nay, flipping by—as I HAD to find out more, all the way to the book's cliff-hanging end. Well, all I can say is . . . now it's on to the series' third book!

As the Nazi regime continues its atrocities, Annalise and her husband have to make hard decisions for the sake of saving their country. Will they murder one of their own to save countless others? That's not the least of Annalise's troubles. She's torn between passion for her country and her growing attraction to her boss, a formidable Nazi. Only she can see the man inside the monster. She refuses to become his mistress to earn his trust and get information from him. But how long can she hold out from the man who always takes what he wants? A feeling of helplessness pervades this book. How can you help your people and not give away your actions? Is it better to leave or stay and save the few that you can? A couple of quotes describe this so well: "We both got caught in the current of events that we couldn't really control, and were forced to make choices that we would never make if it wasn't for that damn war." "Standing next to a person who's committing the crime and not doing anything about it is the same thing as committing that crime with your own hands." The book is fast-paced and filled with passion. It looks into human emotions, and how easy it is for things to spiral out of control--both in politics and love.

Wow! Okay, I loved the first installment of The Girl from Berlin so my expectations with this one were high. Very high. And as expected, Ms. Midwood raised the bar even higher! This is an intense thriller. It's edgy, sexy, and suspenseful throughout. Downright shocking at times. It picks up where the first book left off, with the main character Annalise. She's married to Heinrich, but she faces a tough choice. Stay faithful and get convicted of being a war criminal, or have an affair with a terrifying man to get the info she needs to ensure her freedom. The author does an amazing job of setting the scene and creating believable characters the reader wants to invest in. Parts of it were so intense, I found myself literally sitting on the edge of my seat, flipping as fast as I could to learn the outcome. The plot is well paced, tension building throughout until you reach the explosive conclusion. I still haven't figured out how she does it, but Ms. Midwood's writing is so character-driven. Every time I read one of her books, I feel like I'm best friends with the main character and I know what they're thinking, feeling. I loved it. One of the sexiest thrillers I've read in years!!! I highly recommend it, to men and women alike. I'm anxiously waiting for the next book!!!

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